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Chairman: Mr. KUKAN (Slovakia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (continued) (A/48/40, A/48/44 and Add.1, A/48/280, A/48/471, A/48/507, A/48/508 and Corr.1, A/48/520, A/48/556 and A/48/560)

1. Mr. RATA (New Zealand) said that the protection of human rights was one of the most demanding challenges of the Charter of the United Nations. Human rights were the foundation of freedom, justice and peace, and universal respect for human rights was a prerequisite for broader security.

2. The response of the United Nations to that challenge was impressive. It had developed a comprehensive body of international human rights law and established the necessary mechanisms for promoting human rights and ensuring that they were respected. The importance of the instruments drafted by the United Nations had been underlined by the appreciable increase in the number of States which had ratified them; of course, the goal remained universal ratification.

3. The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna had reaffirmed the universality of human rights and the continuing validity of the body of international human rights instruments. It had called for a concerted effort to encourage and facilitate the ratification of the human rights instruments and had requested States to try not to lodge reservations. New Zealand welcomed those recommendations and believed that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action provided a concrete platform for the continuation of the collective efforts in the area of human rights. It had been the first country to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and had recently ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child; it valued its regular dialogue with the various bodies established pursuant to international human rights instruments. In 1994 New Zealand was to submit its second periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and, in a week's time in Geneva, its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

4. New Zealand also intended to play its part in the areas which had not yet been codified. It had participated in the preparation of the draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women, which it saw as a practical measure to put an end to a fundamental violation of the human rights of women, and looked forward to joining in the consensus which the text ought to enjoy. It had taken an active part in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the drafting of a declaration on the protection of the rights of indigenous populations which the Subcommission was to consider at its next session. New Zealand commended the Working Group for its efforts and looked forward to the results of the next round of consultations on the draft declaration.

(Mr. Rata, New Zealand)

5. Since the standard-setting work was largely accomplished, the United Nations and its Member States should now focus on the implementation of the existing instruments. United Nations organs must endeavour, as requested in the Vienna Declaration, to strengthen, rationalize and streamline their human rights activities, for although the United Nations human rights programme was comprehensive, it was still haphazard and uncoordinated. It was time to reshape the programme in order to streamline the reporting system and improve the functioning of the international treaty bodies. New Zealand was disappointed that the World Conference had not made specific proposals in that regard. However, the issue was a complex one and must therefore be approached in a measured way.

6. Some concrete steps had already been taken. The General Assembly had approved amendments to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in order to allow the committees which monitored their implementation to be funded from the United Nations regular budget. New Zealand had ratified the amendments and urged the other States parties to do likewise, so that they could enter into force. In the meantime, the States parties must continue to pay their assessed contributions or arrears, so that the two committees could continue to function. The independent expert Mr. Philip Alston and the chairmen of the international human rights treaty bodies had offered some thoughtful comments on means of rationalizing the reporting procedures. Their comments and recommendations deserved careful study, followed by appropriate action by the General Assembly.

7. Special attention should be given to the recommendation of the World Conference that the questions of the equal status of women and women's human rights should be incorporated into the main stream of United Nations activities. The treaty bodies should also take greater account of them in their activities.

8. New Zealand also attached great importance to strengthening the mechanisms established by the United Nations to promote education about human rights and strengthen their protection. The United Nations advisory and technical assistance services played an important role in that respect by giving States guidance in establishing the necessary infrastructure.

9. The Vienna Declaration recommended that the Centre for Human Rights should assume a larger role in the promotion of human rights. In order to do that, the Centre must have the necessary financial and human resources. As the Secretary-General had stated in the clearest terms, the Centre could not meet the demands of Member States without an adequate resource base. It was therefore vital for its resources to be increased.

10. Mr. MOTOC (Romania) said that the international community now had a comprehensive human rights legislative framework which should enable it finally to overcome the divisions which had long prevailed in an area which was of vital concern for peoples all over the world.

(Mr. Motoc, Romania)

11. The ratification of the international human rights treaties was in an upward trend, and 172 States were already parties to one or more of the seven principal instruments which were provided with supervisory organs. Romania was itself a party to the two international covenants and to all the other basic United Nations human rights treaties. An excessive proliferation of treaties must be avoided, for it might cause duplication and overlapping; the emphasis instead should be on standard-setting in new areas which needed to be considered at the regional or international level. An effort should be made to find new means, including new technologies, of improving the implementation of the existing treaties and enhancing the national and international effectiveness of the machinery for protection of human rights.

12. At the international level, new and commendable initiatives had been taken by the various components of the United Nations human rights machinery, whether they were designed to improve the methods of preparing reports, to overcome the backlog in considering them or to alleviate the burden imposed by State party reservations. Of particular value, in Romania's view, was the practice, following the consideration of country reports, of formulating concluding observations and recommendations concerning the legislative and other measures to be taken by States in order to enhance the exercise of human rights in their territories. Romania also deemed the general comments which the Human Rights Committee and other treaty bodies had been drafting for some time to be of remarkable value. The biennial meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies were also highly beneficial. They constituted a first step towards greater coordination, effectiveness and streamlining of United Nations structures and their functioning. Romania believed that the process of reform under way within the United Nations system could take a more concrete form through the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

13. In the final analysis, the implementation of human rights treaties depended on the political will of States to ensure respect for them. It must be admitted that, after 50 years of campaigning for human rights, the best method of protecting them consisted of the adoption of legislation adapted to international norms and the constitutional provisions of a country and accompanied by judicial guarantees; the establishment of credible institutions; the initiation of a dialogue with qualified local and international non-governmental organizations; and the expansion of communication with competent international bodies, especially those entrusted with monitoring functions.

14. In the past four years, Romania had remodelled its legislation to bring it into line with the relevant international and European norms, and had revised its Constitution to take into account the primacy of international law over domestic law. Furthermore, it had established a Constitutional Court and had appointed an Ombudsman, as provided for in the Constitution; all those measures were mentioned in the third periodic report which Romania had recently submitted to the Human Rights Committee. Romania acknowledged that much remained to be done to ensure the full enjoyment of all rights in its territory. With regard to the criticism to which Romania had recently been subjected for its alleged

(Mr. Motoc, Romania)

unfair treatment of ethnic minorities, his delegation wished to make it clear that such practices did not have the backing of the Romanian Government, but were simply the result of negative interactions among various members of society. The Government had taken strong steps to create a social climate in which those types of practices would be eliminated. The Constitution protected the rights and the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of persons belonging to minorities; a Council on National Minorities had been set up to promote dialogue between those groups and the Government, which was currently considering a bill on the protection of national minorities; lastly, avenues were open to minorities for participation in every aspect of public life. The strengthening of the rule of law and democratic institutions and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms should also help to normalize the situation in that regard. In attaching the utmost importance to constructive approaches and dialogue, Romania was basing its efforts on the standards embodied in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and the Vienna Declaration. Its admission to the Council of Europe and ties with the European Union should also help it to adopt approaches consistent with regional stability and security.

15. Mr. DEKANY (Hungary) noted with satisfaction that, in adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the States Members of the United Nations had recognized the universal nature of human rights and fundamental freedoms and had reaffirmed their pledge, under the Charter, to promote respect for them. It was essential for all Member States to adhere to the human rights instruments, to accept the available procedures and to reconsider their reservations. His delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to begin a dialogue with States which had not yet acceded to those treaties in order to identify obstacles and seek ways of overcoming them. His delegation, recalling the decisions concerning successor States adopted by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, urged those States to notify the Secretary-General of their acceptance of their treaty obligations.

16. Hungary welcomed the innovative procedures developed by various human rights treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Committee, with regard to prevention, emergency situations, early warning and follow-up. The Human Rights Committee was considering requesting States parties to host a mission responsible for collecting the information which the Committee needed in order to carry out its functions, in cases where it had been unable to obtain such information, or as a follow-up to its earlier recommendations. Moreover, the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and those bodies themselves were studying ways of following up the Secretary-General's recommendation that conflict-generating situations should be identified at the earliest possible stage. Those were positive initiatives.

17. As referred to in paragraphs 97 and 7 of the Vienna Declaration, the human rights expertise of the members of the treaty bodies could be more fully utilized, especially in the framework of the human rights components of peace-keeping operations and human rights training for international civil servants assigned to work relating to human rights.

(Mr. Dekany, Hungary)

18. In view of the need for the continuing adaptation of the United Nations human rights machinery, his delegation hoped that, at the current session, the General Assembly would approve the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner should be able to draw upon the expertise of the human rights treaty bodies, special rapporteurs, experts and working groups, and should have access to all organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations, including the Security Council.

19. The burden of reporting obligations, both for States parties and for the Centre for Human Rights, threatened the effectiveness of the monitoring system. Consideration should be given to the suggestions made by the independent expert, Mr. Philip Alston, in his interim report. They could be supplemented by the views of members of the treaty bodies and United Nations administrative, financial and legal experts. As the sessions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights might not be conducive to in-depth discussion, a separate format for consultations on that issue should be envisaged.

20. In the meantime, it was essential to increase the funds allocated to the Centre for Human Rights by providing, in the framework of the next budgetary cycle, for the hiring of additional legal experts and the establishment of a computerized database with cross-referencing capacities and a research room for the use of members of the treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and working groups.

21. Lastly, there was a need to increase the capacity of the United Nations, not only for improved monitoring of the treaty obligations voluntarily entered into by States, but also for providing States parties with the assistance which they needed in order to meet their obligations.

22. Mr. KASOULIDES (Cyprus) welcomed the ever-growing number of accessions to international human rights instruments and said that priority must be given to their effective implementation. In the long term the United Nations should make every effort to enhance the operation of existing and prospective international human rights treaty bodies. His delegation endorsed the proposal to establish an international court of human rights and was convinced that it was a feasible prospect, particularly in view of the experience of the European Court of Human Rights set up by the Council of Europe.

23. As the human rights treaty bodies had an ever-expanding role, their work should be rationalized and they should be provided with adequate resources. His delegation welcomed the decision taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to finance the committees set up under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment from the regular budget and wished to associate itself with the appeal to all Member States to ratify the amendments that had been made to those Conventions to that end. Cyprus had ratified or acceded to the major human rights instruments. Their implementation was guaranteed by Cypriot courts and could be verified through international mechanisms.

(Mr. Kasoulides, Cyprus)

24. Thanks to the efforts of the Human Rights Committee, the role of international bodies in monitoring and protecting human rights was universally accepted. In the context of the implementation of the Convention against Torture, his delegation strongly supported the implementation of the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, particularly Physicians, in the Protection of Prisoners and Detainees against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

25. The growing scope and complexity of the work carried out by the Centre for Human Rights meant that the Centre should be allocated greater resources. His delegation took note in that connection of the observations and recommendations made by the meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, in particular the proposal to create at least 30 Professional posts at the Centre.

26. The special attention accorded to children in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the ratification by 152 Member States of the Convention on the Rights of the Child reflected the universal realization of the need to improve the welfare and protect the fundamental rights of children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child had rightly focused on children in armed conflicts but should concern itself with all forms of child exploitation.

27. Concerning the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, the Cypriot Constitution enshrined the principle of freedom of religion and religious worship, guaranteed the equality of all religions before the law and prohibited all discrimination against any religion or religious institution.

28. In Cyprus, human rights and fundamental freedoms were guaranteed by the Constitution. However, the occupation of part of the island by a foreign Power prevented their application throughout the country. The United Nations had a role to play there, as it did wherever human rights were neither respected nor applied. A law had recently been adopted in Cyprus on the status of conscientious objectors, who in the future would be able to perform unarmed service.

29. The principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and absolute national sovereignty should be discussed extensively in order to heighten awareness of the role played by international monitoring mechanisms in the field of human rights. In view of the growing number of internal conflicts, it was absolutely vital to strengthen international human rights instruments by creating effective enforcement procedures and mechanisms.

30. Mr. AL-DOURI (Iraq) recalled that his country, which was deeply attached to the cause of human rights at the national as well as the international level, had complied fully with the international treaties and instruments to which it had acceded; despite its past and present difficulties, Iraq had never failed to submit the periodic reports requested of it and had always responded promptly to questions and demands for clarification from special rapporteurs. While his delegation believed that States were obliged to fulfil their international commitments and report on the way in which they did so, it nevertheless wished to emphasize that that rule was valid for all States and should be applied in a

(Mr. Al-Douri, Iraq)

non-selective way, without a hidden political agenda. It was common knowledge that in the international arena human rights had been diverted from their primary purpose and were being used as a political weapon.

31. He wished to reiterate a question which he had already put to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, namely, whether the United Nations could directly or indirectly violate the fundamental rights of an individual, which meant violating international human rights instruments, and whether it could be held accountable for such violations.

32. Respect for the fundamental rights of the individual was an imperative for all States, just as it was for all international organizations. That raised the question of whether it was possible for the United Nations itself to violate those rights, even when it claimed to be defending them. The answer to that question was, unfortunately, in the affirmative. All one needed to do to be persuaded of that was to look at what was going on in countries such as Iraq, where for over three years the United Nations had been applying an economic embargo that was "much more than a simple economic blockade" and had caused suffering that no human rights defender worthy of the name could tolerate, and that had created a disastrous situation which was verified by the number of documents issued by impartial observers, the most recent being a report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) entitled "Crops and food supply assessment mission to Iraq: special alert No. 237", published in July 1993 as document FAO/ESC/No.4960.

33. The embargo in question had caused the death of thousands of people, most of them women, children and elderly persons; the United Nations had thus violated the right to life in the most appalling manner by committing premeditated murder that could be truly qualified as genocide. Furthermore, thousands of seriously ill people were in danger of dying for want of medicine. In fact, the statement that the embargo would not apply to medicines and food was wholly inaccurate, as the Director-General of the World Health Organization had indicated when he had said that some States had prevented his organization from sending medicine to Iraq. Before coming to New York he (Mr. Al-Douri) had learned that the dispatch to Iraq of X-ray films which were desperately needed by hospitals in the country had been prevented. In addition, the embargo had created an extremely serious shortage of books and educational and scientific materials, done great harm to agriculture and industry, disrupted transport services and led to considerable upheaval in the daily life of the Iraqi people; in short, it had violated not only the civil and political rights but also the economic, social and cultural rights of the Iraqi population.

34. To the question of whether and to what extent the application of economic or any other sanctions that violated the rights of the individual were authorized, genuine human rights defenders must reply with a categorical and unequivocal no. It was therefore surprising that when an entire people was deprived of its fundamental rights, the international bodies that dealt with human rights remained silent.

35. Mrs. PIANO (Estonia), speaking on behalf of Latvia, Lithuania and her own country, said that the final Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights afforded a unique opportunity for significant progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. She welcomed the recent establishment of a working group to give priority consideration to the possible establishment of a post of high commissioner for human rights, which would allow United Nations treaty bodies to identify human rights violations when and where they occurred and to defend Member States falsely accused of human rights violations more effectively.

36. In recent years, a growing number of countries had ratified or acceded to the international human rights instruments, but it was obvious that many had yet to do so. Because the Baltic States believed in full and complete acceptance of human rights instruments, they fully supported the recommendation of the World Conference on Human Rights that, to the extent possible, States should avoid resorting to reservations when acceding to human rights instruments.

37. The Baltic States attached great importance to the issue of protecting human rights and minority rights in particular. Before their occupation by the former Soviet Union, the three countries had had tolerant and liberal legislation that had allowed every resident to express his or her own religious, ethnic and cultural identity. Under Soviet occupation, recognition of that identity had been subjugated to political imperatives. Since regaining their independence in 1991, the Baltic countries had generally given high priority to the protection of human rights, as illustrated by their accession to the two International Covenants, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture. Furthermore, the Constitutions of the Baltic countries complied with the provisions of the two Covenants and with contemporary human rights standards in general. With respect to minority rights, Estonia had updated its Cultural Autonomy of Minorities Act in September 1993. Recently, the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) had commended that law and had stressed that it could serve as a model for other countries. The three Baltic countries had laws guaranteeing national minorities the right to establish cultural associations, publish works in their own languages and establish schools where children could learn the language of their parents. Many of those activities were financed by the Government. In closing, she said that even during a period of political and economic upheaval, human rights remained a top priority for the Baltic States.

38. Mr. BASNYAT (Nepal) said that human rights instruments were the cornerstone of international cooperation in the field of human rights and thus of efforts to give full meaning to the notion of human dignity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Ideally, of course, every State should accede to those instruments, thereby affirming the fundamental principle of their universality, and, as recommended by the World Conference on Human Rights, avoid formulating reservations to the instruments to which they became parties and withdraw any they had already entered.

(Mr. Basnyat, Nepal)

39. In Nepal, the restoration of democracy had made it possible to re-establish a multiparty system. A new constitution had been promulgated, and the Nepalese could now freely elect their parliamentary representatives. The new Nepalese Government attached particular importance to United Nations activities in the sphere of human rights, as illustrated by its accession to all of the major human rights instruments: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

40. Monitoring the implementation of the major human rights instruments was an essential aspect of international efforts in that field. While the increase in the number of States parties to human rights instruments was encouraging, it was still necessary to continue to strengthen the effectiveness of the existing verification system. His delegation endorsed the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights in that regard and hoped that they would be implemented.

41. The submission by States of periodic reports made ongoing monitoring of the treaty system possible, although, given the large backlog in their submission to and consideration by the treaty bodies, it represented a considerable workload for both the States and bodies in question. To avoid any duplication in the reports, his delegation favoured the proposal that States should submit one overall report on their progress in implementing the various instruments to which they were parties. The proposal to have them submit thematic rather than article-by-article reports also merited consideration. Lastly, it was necessary to ensure that the reports prepared were frank and comprehensive and to consider establishing a mechanism to monitor steps taken by States after their reports had been considered.

42. His delegation welcomed the approval of measures to fund the operations of the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and stressed the desirability of implementing them quickly. It was grateful to Mr. Philip Alston for his interim report on the updated study of possible long-term approaches to improving the operation of current and future human rights treaty bodies. Like other delegations, it believed that the interim report could provide the basis for an in-depth examination of the human rights treaty system.

43. Mr. KEDZIA (Poland) said that the World Conference on Human Rights had stressed the universal nature of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Paragraph 1 of the Vienna Declaration expressly stated that the universal nature of those rights and freedoms was beyond question. Because of that universality, all States must accede to the international human rights instruments. His delegation endorsed the appeal made to States in paragraph 26 of the Vienna Declaration to accede to the instruments and, as far as possible, avoid resorting to reservations. Similarly, it approved the recommendation in

(Mr. Kedzia, Poland)

paragraph 90 of the Vienna Programme of Action that States parties to human rights treaties should consider accepting all the available optional communication procedures. Poland had ratified the few international conventions to which it had not previously acceded, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights. It had also agreed to the submission of communications from individuals under the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, under the International Convention against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and under the European Convention on Human Rights.

44. International human rights standards had become the formal expression of a new moral code on which international relations were or ought to be based. Together with peace, democracy and development, human rights were the fundamental purpose of the United Nations. That situation had been acknowledged by the World Conference on Human Rights in paragraph 4 of the Vienna Declaration, which stated that the promotion and protection of all human rights was a priority objective of the United Nations and a legitimate concern of the international community.

45. His delegation shared the general opinion that it was time to concentrate on applying the norms adopted rather than on elaborating new instruments. In view of the proliferation of machinery to ensure the application of those norms, an effort should be made to rationalize the system. Rationalization was needed to provide better protection for individuals, ensure that effective measures were taken in response to massive violations of human rights and guarantee the most efficient use of the available human and financial resources. Such rationalization would require changes in United Nations structures and procedures in the field of human rights. As mentioned by Mr. Houshmand, Director of the Implementation of International Instruments and Procedures Branch, some important measures had already been adopted. Noteworthy among them was the system of consolidated reporting for States and ex officio reporting for States with serious delays in submitting their reports or in cases of serious human rights violations. In a welcome development, the treaty bodies had begun to formulate general comments on the content of international instruments, thereby creating jurisprudence in that field. Some proposals were still under study, including the proposed reform of the Commission on Human Rights and the development of mechanisms which would enable the Commission to respond immediately to serious human rights violations and the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Given that, currently, most human rights violations were the result of internal conflicts, it was essential to ensure protection for the victims of those conflicts. That issue merited urgent consideration and might even warrant the elaboration of appropriate instruments.

46. Similarly, as there could be no democracy without respect for human rights, as observed by the former Chairman of the African Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Isaac Nguema, Governments, organizations and individuals should all strive to establish a universal human rights culture. In that connection, it was important to adopt promptly the draft declaration on the right and

(Mr. Kedzia, Poland)

responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. That declaration could serve as a framework for United Nations activities related to the decade for human rights education envisaged in the Vienna Declaration.

47. Lastly, he stressed the need to develop procedures for preventing human rights violations, including an early-warning system. He mentioned in that regard the role played by the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in the field of diplomacy. His delegation also welcomed the elaboration of the first legal instrument of a preventive nature, the draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture. It hoped that the protocol could be adopted without unnecessary delay.

AGENDA ITEM 113: REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.21/Rev.1

48. Mr. MALGINOV (Russian Federation) said that the draft resolution dealt with what was currently one of the most serious issues in the humanitarian field, namely the problem of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and migrants. A thorough consideration of the question, within the framework of a United Nations conference, was needed to determine the form of international cooperation in that area. The delegations concerned had held numerous consultations on the draft resolution. He hoped that the revised version, which reflected the views of the majority on the issue, could be adopted by consensus.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution L.21/Rev.1 had no budgetary implications. He would take it that the Third Committee wished to adopt the text by consensus.

50. It was so decided.

51. Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.23/Rev.1

52. Mr. ALIYEV (Azerbaijan) said that Senegal and Belarus had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which dealt with emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan. The revised version of the draft was the result of numerous consultations and had been prepared thanks to, inter alia, the good offices of the Chairman. The draft did not contain any controversial elements. He thanked those delegations which had demonstrated their understanding of the dramatic situation of the population in Azerbaijan. He hoped that the revised draft resolution could be adopted without a vote.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.23/Rev.1 did not have any budgetary implications. He would take it that the Third Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

54. It was so decided.

55. Draft resolution A/C.3/48/L.23/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

56. Miss FOSTIER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the member countries of the European Community applauded the Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations and the Chairman of the Third Committee for their efforts to produce a text acceptable to all. Nevertheless, the Twelve would have preferred placing the issue dealt with in the resolution within a regional perspective. They understood that the situation in Azerbaijan was urgent and exceptional and for that reason had joined the consensus. However, they did not favour placing an item on the agenda of the next session of the General Assembly as an outgrowth of the draft resolution. Similarly, they hoped that the Secretary-General's report prepared pursuant to the resolution would take into account the humanitarian situation in the entire region.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus completed consideration of agenda item 113.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT AIR DISASTER IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

58. The CHAIRMAN expressed his sympathy and that of the members of the Third Committee to the families of the many victims of the air disaster which had just taken place in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He urged the representative of that country to convey to his Government his sympathy and his friendship under those sad circumstances.

59. Mr. ČALOVSKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that he wished to thank the Chairman and assured him that he would transmit his message to his country's Government.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.